

Introduced by Senator Chesbro

February 15, 2005

An act to amend Section 129875.1 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to health facilities.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 224, as introduced, Chesbro. Health facilities: construction plans.

The existing Alfred E. Alquist Hospital Facilities Seismic Safety Act of 1983 requires design and construction standards for hospital buildings that house patients who have less than the capacity of normally healthy persons to protect themselves, and that must be reasonably capable of providing services to the public after a disaster. The act requires the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) to approve or reject all plans for the construction or alteration of a hospital building, but authorizes OSHPD to exempt from that review or expedite the review for certain projects. Existing law requires projects for the construction or alteration of hospital buildings and skilled nursing and intermediate care facilities that are single-story, wood-frame or light steel frame construction to be exempt from plan review and inspection by OSHPD prior to construction if the facility demonstrates to OSHPD by written description of the project that specified conditions are met.

This bill would delete the requirement that hospital buildings and skilled nursing and intermediate care facilities be single-story, wood-frame, or light steel frame construction to be exempt from plan review and inspection by OSHPD prior to construction if the facility demonstrates to OSHPD by written description of the project that specified conditions are met, and would instead require that exemption

for all hospital buildings and skilled nursing and intermediate care facilities.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 129875.1 of the Health and Safety Code
2 is amended to read:

3 129875.1. (a) Notwithstanding Section 129875, projects for
4 the construction or alterations of buildings specified in paragraph
5 (1) of subdivision (a) of Section 129725 ~~that are single-story,~~
6 ~~wood-frame or light steel frame construction~~ and buildings
7 specified in paragraphs (2) and (3) of subdivision (b) of Section
8 129725 shall be exempt from plan review and inspection by the
9 office prior to construction if the facility demonstrates to the
10 office, by written description of the project, that all of the
11 following conditions are met:

12 (1) The construction or alteration is undertaken to repair
13 existing systems or to keep up the course of normal or routine
14 maintenance.

15 (2) The construction or alteration either restores the facility to
16 the same operational status, or improves operational status from
17 its operating condition immediately prior to the event,
18 occurrence, or condition that necessitated the alteration.

19 (3) The scope of the construction or alteration is not ordinarily
20 within the standard of practice of a licensed architect or
21 registered engineer.

22 (4) The construction or alteration does not degrade the status
23 or condition of the fire and life safety system from the status of
24 the system immediately prior to the event, occurrence, or
25 condition that necessitated the alteration.

26 (b) Upon completion of construction or alteration of any
27 building subject to this section, and prior to use of the repaired
28 system or other subject of the construction or alteration, the
29 office shall inspect and approve the work. The office may require
30 an interim inspection for code compliance when walls, ceilings,
31 or other materials or finishes will cover the final work.

32 (c) Upon compliance with subdivision (a), the office shall
33 issue a building permit.

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